3. As regards the representation of teachers on the Legislative Council, as far as private school teachers go, I do not think there is any objection to their standing for election.

90. Vernacular Education.

MR. K. PARAMESVARA PANIKKAR (*Member, Shertallai taluk, Group I*) said that the minimum qualification for a teacher in Elementary Schools should be the English School Leaving Certificate, the syllabus in Secondary Schools being vernacularised. The medium of instruction should be the Vernacular. Classes V to IX of Vernacular Schools should be amalgamated with English Schools. Vocational education should be given in these schools. Practical training in agriculture should be imparted, farms, three or four acres in extent being attached to each school. Other changes were also necessary in the syllabus, which should be considered by a committee of educational experts. Land development should be encouraged by various means and unemployment reduced by industrial undertaking.

Opinion, official and popular, was unanimous that the pay of Vernacular School teachers should be enhanced adequately. Their position was deplorable not only when compared with the condition in foreign countries like Germany or Japan, but also if regard is had to the recent increase in prices, their heavy responsibilities, the duty of the State to maintain them properly and the salaries obtaining in other departments. Half-starved teachers failed to command respect or evoke enthusiasm. The teachers in Travancore, however, had done good work in the cause of popular education by organizing libraries, etc. The number of teachers was certainly an obstacle in the way of raising their pay. The minimum pay should, however, be fixed at Rs. 18. For women teachers a time-scale of pay rising up to Rs. 25 should be given. Trained teachers should be given Rs. 25 to Rs. 30. Headmasters of Middle Schools should be given Rs. 45 *plus* Rs 5; the starting pay of a trained Vernacular Higher teacher should be Rs. 30.

The above proposals would cost Rs. 4 lakhs a year. The regular annual increase of Rs. 2 lakhs under customs, Rs. ·5 lakh received on account of the rebate of duty on *ganja*, Rs. 2·5 lakhs on account of opium rebate, and the increase of Rs. 1·5 lakhs anticipated under tobacco, would together amount to Rs. 6·5 lakhs, thus leaving a balance of Rs. 2·5 lakhs for other contingencies.

Retrenchment was possible in some directions. The Training College was probably a superfluity. At any rate, teachers need not be given stipends to get themselves trained, as training brought with it increase of pay. L. T.'s trained at their own cost might be recruited in future. The opening and management of educational institutions might be devolved on private agencies. The publication of text-books might bring in some revenue. Schools which overlapped might be abolished. The extension of the 'shift system' would only increase the mortality among half-starved teachers. A sympathetic consideration of the condition of Vernacular School teachers was necessary.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Parameswara Panikkar, in regard to the pay of the Vernacular School teachers, I have nothing to add to what I have already said to-day in reply to Mr. Kanakku Martanda Pillai Parameswaran Pillai, the Member for Chirayinkil taluk, Group I. In regard to your representations on specific matters relating to teachers, those are matters which, I am sure, the Director of Public Instruction will take up and if necessary refer to the Government. As regards the Rs. 6·5 lakhs you want the Excise Commissioner to provide, may I ask you if you can provide the numerous lakhs which will disappear when you impose prohibition?

The Assembly adjourned at 4-55 P. M., to meet again at 11-30 A. M., on Saturday, the 27th February, 1926.

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